

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Manager
Joyce Soong, Crab Catch Monitor
Phone: (907) 443-5167
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome ADF&G
PO Box 1148
Nome AK 99762
Date Issued: 8/6/2013
Time: 4:00PM

**NORTON SOUND RED KING CRAB SUMMER COMMERCIAL FISHERY
CLOSED AREA REDUCED ON EAST SIDE**

Out of the 35 permit holders registered for the open access fishery, 32 crabbers have made at least one delivery. To date, approximately 191,000 pounds have been harvested out of the total GHL of 495,600 pounds. Based on the current catch rate, the GHL is projected to be reached in mid- to late-September.

According to regulation 5 AAC 34.935, the department may, “by emergency order, reduce by small increments, the closed waters to allow the commercial king crab fishery to efficiently obtain the allowable harvest of red king crab.”

To allow more of the fleet access to additional fishing grounds in order to more efficiently obtain the allowable red king crab harvest, starting at noon on Wednesday, August 7, the department will move the closure line between 162°38'W (Carson Creek) and 162°W (the eastern border of statistical area 626401) north by 5 miles to 64°15'N. Results from the spring tagging project indicate this area is likely to have an appreciable amount of large male red king crabs. Additionally, the closure line between 162°W and 161°30'W (Cape Denbigh) will also be moved north, by 3 miles to 64°18'N (Figure 1).

Please note that the original closed boundary line between 163°30'W (near Square Rock) and 162°38'W (Carson Creek) will remain **unchanged** at 64°10'N. Recent tagging studies have shown proportionally greater amounts of juvenile and female red king crabs in nearshore waters of this area. The attached map shows the new boundary line.

The department appreciates those fishermen who have taken an onboard observer. Observer coverage allows the department to collect important information about the fishery. If you are interested in taking an onboard observer, who can also help out as a crewmember, please contact our research department at 443-8184 or 443-8185.

For any questions regarding fishing please call Fish & Game in Nome at 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271.

Good Luck and Good Crabbing.

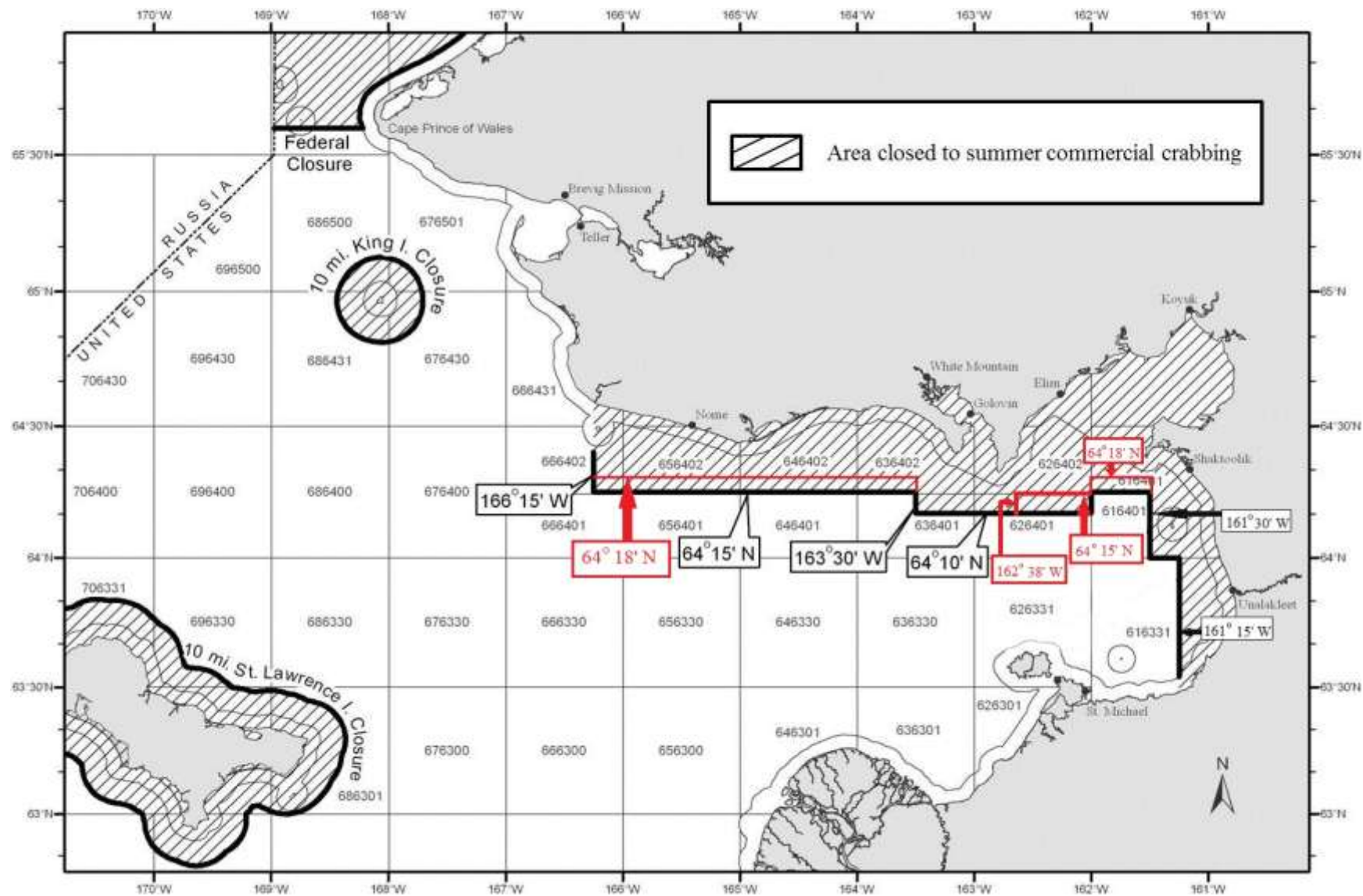


Figure 1.-Starting at noon on Wednesday, August 7, the department will move the closure line between $162^{\circ}38'W$ (Carson Creek) and $162^{\circ}W$ (the eastern border of statistical area 626401) north by 5 miles to $64^{\circ}15'N$. Additionally, the closure line between $162^{\circ}W$ and $161^{\circ}30'W$ (Cape Denbigh) will also be moved north, by 3 miles to $64^{\circ}18'N$.